

REMARKS

The application has been amended in keeping with the Examiner's suggestions for identifying patentable subject matter and for overcoming the outstanding objections to the claims.

Additional Fee

Additional Claim Fee Calculation

	Number of Claims Remaining	Highest Previous Number Paid	Present Extra Claims	Rate for Small Entity	Additional Fee
Total	17	20	0	\$9	\$0
Indep.	8	3	5	\$42	\$210
				Additional Claims Fee	\$210

Fee Payment

A check for \$210 is attached. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 19-4518.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 has been amended to delete the article "a" as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 15 instead of claim 1 and is no longer a duplicate of any other claim.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 6-7, and 9 stand rejected as anticipated by US Patent No. 5,035,800 to Kopach, and claims 1, 4-6, 9-10, 14, and 17-18 stand rejected as anticipated by US Patent No. 3,390,781 to Anderson.

Claims 1 and 4-5 are canceled.

Claim 6 been amended to depend from rewritten claim 2, which is considered allowable.

Claim 7 depends from claim 6

Claim 9 depends from claim 6

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from rewritten claim 2.

Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, which specifies that the strap guiding features are notches formed in the strainer body. Neither reference shows this feature. The Examiner has already determined that claim 2 recites allowable subject matter in combination with claim 1.

Claim 17 depends from amended claim 14.

Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 15, which is considered allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-3, 8, 11-13, 15-16, and 19 are deemed allowable if rewritten to incorporate all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 20 is deemed allowable as filed.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1.

Claim 3 properly depends from rewritten claim 2.

Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1.

Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1.

Claim 13 properly depends from rewritten claim 12.

Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 14.

Claim 16 properly depends from rewritten claim 15.

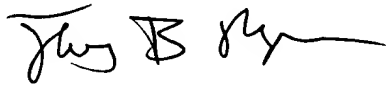
Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1.

* * *

The invention as set forth in the remaining claims 2-3 and 6-20 is believed to be clearly distinguished over the cited art in keeping with the Examiner's indications of allowable subject matter. The objections as to form have also been overcome in keeping with the Examiner's suggestions. Reconsideration and allowance of the remaining claims are respectfully requested.

For any question on the above amendments, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure
Dated: MAY 6 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231.

Date of Deposit: MAY 6 2003

Signature: 